

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8. (Cancelled).

Claim 9. (Currently Amended): The adhesive masking strip as claimed in claim [[8]] 22, which comprises a single said groove and two flanges situated one on each side of the groove, each said flange having an interior part and an exterior part, wherein the at least one adhesive region is situated on the exterior part of one of said flanges.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended): The adhesive masking strip as claimed in claim [[8]] 22, wherein a cross section of said strip falls entirely inside a parallelepiped measuring 5 to 40 mm along a first side parallel to said at least one adhesive region, and 3 to 40 mm along a second side perpendicular to said at least one adhesive region, when the strip is in the uncompressed state, and wherein said strip is able to be compressed at least by half in terms of said second side.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented): The adhesive masking strip as claimed in claim 9, wherein the groove has an opening angle of between 20 and 80° when the strip is not compressed.

Claim 12. (Original): The adhesive masking strip as claimed in claim 11, wherein the groove bottom has a radius of curvature of between 5 and 30 mm when the strip is not compressed.

Claim 13. (Original): The adhesive masking strip as claimed in claim 9, wherein when the strip is not compressed, a first angle between a surface of the interior part of the one of the flanges having the at least one adhesive region and a line parallel to the at least one adhesive region is smaller than a second angle between a surface of the interior part of another of the flanges not having the at least one adhesive region and the line parallel to the at least one adhesive region.

Claim 14. (Original): The adhesive masking strip as claimed in claim 13, wherein the second angle is greater than the first angle by 3° to 30° .

Claim 15. (Previously Presented): The adhesive masking strip as claimed claim 9, wherein, when the strip is compressed, the another flange protrudes with respect to the one flange having the at least one adhesive region.

Claim 16. (Original): The adhesive masking strip as claimed in claim 9, wherein, when the strip is not compressed, the flange on which at least one adhesive region is situated has an edge situated opposite to the bottom of the groove, wherein the thickness of the edge is between 1 and 10 mm.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented): The adhesive masking strip as claimed in claim 9, comprising a single adhesive region, wherein said adhesive region is arranged asymmetrically on the exterior part of the flange and predominantly near said edge of the flange.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended): The adhesive masking strip as claimed in claim [[8]] 22, wherein the elongate cellular material is a polyurethane foam.

Claims 19-21. (Cancelled).

Claim 22. (Currently Amended): An adhesive masking strip comprising:
an elongate cellular material resistant to a surface treatment and having at least one adhesive region, wherein the adhesive masking strip comprises at least one groove, at least part of the wall of which said groove has a region inclined by an angle of less than 45° with respect to the at least one adhesive region,

wherein said strip is adapted to permit insertion of a substantial part of at least one operator's finger in the groove to guide the strip during application thereof.

Claim 23. (Currently Amended): [[An]] The adhesive masking strip according to Claim 22, further comprising:

~~an elongate cellular material resistant to a surface treatment and at least one adhesive region, wherein the adhesive masking strip comprises at least one groove, at least part of the~~

Appln. No. 10/067,418
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~~wall of which said groove has a region inclined by an angle of less than 45° with respect to~~
~~the at least one adhesive region; and~~

at least two flanges, wherein said strip is adapted to permit said flanges to be spread
apart or brought closer to each other during use.

Claim 24. (New) The adhesive masking strip as claimed in claim 22, wherein the at
least one groove has a rounded bottom.